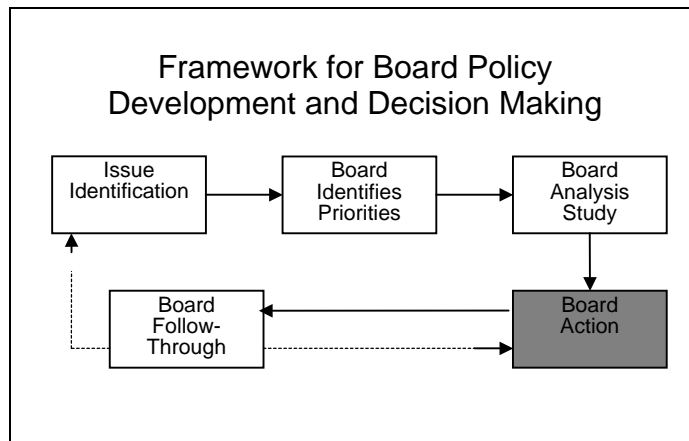


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

May 10-11, 2007



**Agenda Item:** Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval

**Iowa Goal:** 3. Iowans will pursue higher education that results in an improved quality of life supported by better economic opportunities through high skill employment.

**Equity Impact Statement:** The administrative rules governing this process require preparation programs to address equity issues.

**Presenter:** None (Consent agenda)

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the paraeducator preparation programs as proposed.

**Background:** A law allowing for paraeducator certification was passed in 1998 and amended in 2000. The legislation was prompted by the need to have well trained paraeducators providing assistance to students and teachers. The State Board of Education approves voluntary paraeducator preparation programs. These standards and procedures are contained in Chapter 80 of the Department's administrative rules and were approved by the State Board on September 15, 2000.

## **Institution Recommended for Approval**

### **May 10, 2007**

**Dordt College**  
**498 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE**  
**Sioux Center, IA 51250**

- The institution listed above has submitted a program to certify paraeducators at the generalist level.
- Although the paraeducator certification program is voluntary, there are several benefits to having paraeducators certified.
  1. All learners will be better served and the quality of education and related services will improve with the availability of a better-prepared paraeducator workforce.
  2. Paraeducators have mastered skills that are required to support and supplement programs under the supervision of licensed educators.
- The review of the program for generalist level confirmed that the program met two major required components:
  1. All standards and competencies were included from Chapter 22 of the Board of Educational Examiners administrative rules for paraeducator certification.
  2. Criteria to evaluate performance of the standards were present and appropriate.
- Strengths of the programs:
  - Evaluation is performance based.
  - Performance indicators and activities provide for various learning styles of individuals.
  - Assessment of performance is based on multiple assessments.
  - Syllabi were submitted as part of the program.

**Recommendation:**

- Based upon the review of the programs, approval of the paraeducator preparation program offered by Dordt College is recommended.